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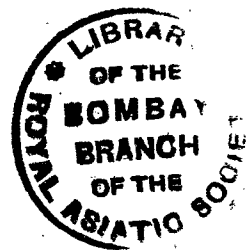
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REPORT
ON
ARCHÆOLOGICAL WORK IN BURMA
FOR THE YEAR 1901-02.

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R E S O L U T I O N

O N T H E

R E P O R T O N A R C H Æ O L O G I C A L W O R K I N B U R M A

F O R T H E Y E A R 1901-02.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Burma in the Revenue Department of Burma in the Revenue Department,—No. 9A.—6, dated the 31st July 1902.

READ—

Report on archæological work in Burma for the year 1901-02.

RESOLUTION.—This is the first separate report on archæological work in this province, and is issued under the orders contained in the Government of India's letter No. 173-9—1, dated the 20th January 1902.

2. The report contains a very meagre account of the work carried out by the Archæological Department during the year. This is partly due to the fact that the Government Archæologist, Mr. Taw Sein Ko, was employed on other duties for a great part of the time.

The department has hitherto been equipped for epigraphical work only, and the need of an architectural staff has been brought to the notice of the Government of India.

3. The programme of work for the ensuing year appears to be suitable. It is important that a list should be framed as early as possible of monuments and other buildings of archæological interest in the province suitable for preservation. The necessary allotment of funds and arrangements for up-keep can then be made either in the Archæological or Public Works Department.

4. Proposals have been formulated in accordance with the wishes of His Excellency the Viceroy for the maintenance of the palace and other buildings in Mandalay. A full account of the action taken should be given in the report for 1902-03.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma,

H. THOMPSON,
Officiating Revenue Secretary.

REPORT

ON

ARCHÆOLOGICAL WORK IN BURMA

FOR THE YEAR 1901-02.

From TAW SEIN KO, Esq., Government Archæologist, Burma, to the Revenue Secretary to the Government of Burma,—No. 121-5A., dated the 15th May 1902.

IN compliance with the orders conveyed in your Revenue Department letter No. 369-9A.—6, dated the 12th February 1902, I have the honour to submit an annual progress report of archæological work carried out during the year ending the 31st March 1902, together with a programme of work for the ensuing 12 months.

2. Copies of the minutes, dated the 2nd December 1901, of His Excellency the Viceroy on the preservation of the palace and other buildings at Mandalay, were duly received by me on the 10th March 1902, and necessary action was taken in consultation with the Executive Engineer, Mandalay.

Report of the Government Archæologist, Burma, for the year ending the 31st March 1902.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL work has been carried on somewhat spasmodically in this province. The officers appointed to do the work had other duties to perform, and the progress of archæological research suffered in consequence.

2. Dr. E. Forchhammer, PH. D., Professor of Pāli at the Rangoon College, was appointed Government Archæologist in 1881, and the following works were issued by him :—

- (1) A note on the Shwe Dagōn Pagoda.
- (2) A note on the first Buddhist Mission to Suvannabhumi.
- (3) A list of objects of archæological interest in Burma.
- (4) A report on the antiquities of Arakan, in three parts.
- (5) A revised list of objects of antiquarian interest in Arakan.
- (6) A chapter of the report on Pagan, dealing with the Kyaukku temple.

He died in April 1890, and the province lost in him a ripe scholar of exceptional experience and attainments. The active prosecution of archæological research ceased with his death. He left a mass of papers, but, unfortunately, the rubbings of inscriptions were the only literary materials that could be utilized.

3. The appointment of Archæologist remained vacant till May 1899, when the Secretary of State for India sanctioned the establishment of an Archæological Department for Burma. The work to be done may be divided into three heads.

- (a) the collection, decipherment, translation and annotation of inscriptions ;
- (b) the conservation of ancient monuments of historical or archæological interest ; and
- (c) the custody, restoration, and illustration of such monuments.

Under the first head, the inscriptions to be dealt with are inexhaustible.

Under the second head, there are three stages of work to be done, namely,—

- (i) to prepare the initial lists of buildings of historical or archæological interest ;
- (ii) to examine these lists in order to select those buildings which are worthy of preservation ;

- (iii) to decide finally what buildings shall be preserved, and to take the necessary steps for their conservation.

What has, so far, been accomplished in the province, except Arakan, is the first stage. The lists for that division were revised by the late Dr. Forchhammer. Revised lists for the other divisions are under preparation.

Under the third head, it may be stated that 127 pagodas at Pagan are in the custody of caretakers paid by Government; that no attempt at restoration has yet been made by the Archæological Department, and that, up to the present, illustrated reports have been issued only of the pagodas in Arakan and of the Kyaukku temple at Pagan. In the case of notable pagodas, trustees have been appointed under the Civil Procedure Code.

4. Since Dr. Forchhammer's death, the following archæological publications have been issued :—

- (1) Inscriptions of Pagan, Pinya and Ava, deciphered from the ink impressions found among the papers of the late Dr. E. Forchhammer (in Burmese).
- (2) Inscriptions copied from the stones collected by King Bodawpaya and placed near the Arakan Pagoda, Mandalay (in Burmese), two volumes.
- (3) Inscriptions collected in Upper Burma (in Burmese), Volume I.
- (4) Notes on an archæological tour through Rāmñādesa (the Talaing country of Burma).
- (5) A preliminary study of the Po-u-daung inscription of Sinbyuyin, 1774 A.D.
- (6) A preliminary study of the Kalyani inscriptions of Dhammacheti, 1476 A.D.
- (7) Some remarks on the Kalyani inscriptions.
- (8) Translation of the inscriptions of Pagan, Pinya, and Ava (item 1) with notes.
- (9) Index Inscriptionum Birmanicarum, Volume I.
- (10) List of pagodas at Pagan under the custody of Government.
- (11) List of objects of antiquarian and archæological interest in Upper Burma.

During the past year the following work was done :—

- (i) Items 10 and 11 of above list.
- (ii) The decipherment and transcription of 77 inscriptions found in various parts of Upper Burma.
- (iii) The collection and compilation of materials required for a detailed archæological survey of Pagan.
- (iv) The numbering of all pagodas in the Pagan township.
- (v) The preparation of a map of Pagan (8 inches to a mile) showing the situation of all pagodas.

From the 19th March to the 31st December 1901 I was away on deputation and Maung Tun Nyein, Government Translator, acted as Archæologist.

5. In December 1901 His Excellency the Viceroy visited Mandalay and Pagan, and issued orders about the preservation of the palace buildings and the Queen's monastery, and the restoration of the pavilions on the walls of Fort Dufferin. His Excellency also ordered the establishment of a local museum near the Ananda Temple at Pagan, and the plans and estimates of the building and of the branch Archæological office are now under the consideration of the Local Government. The manner in which His Excellency's orders are carried out will be described in detail in the next annual report.

6. The following is the programme of work for the ensuing year ending the 31st March 1903 :—

- (i) The carrying out, in conjunction with the Public Works Department, of His Excellency's orders in respect of the preservation and restoration of the palace and other buildings at Mandalay.
- (ii) The establishment of a local museum in the palace at Mandalay for the exhibition of articles appertaining to the civil and religious

ceremonies of the Burmese people, and of the costumes and implements of various hill tribes inhabiting Upper Burma. It is also proposed to deposit in the museum the plans and models of the palace buildings as they existed in the time of the Burmese King.

- (iii) The establishment of a local museum at Pagan under the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy. Pagan was the capital of Burma for over a thousand years, namely, from 108 A.D. to 1284 A.D. It appears to have welcomed the advent of missionaries, and to have afforded an asylum to the religious refugees from various Buddhist countries, like Thibet, Nepal, Ceylon, Thatôn, and Cambodia; hence there is hardly a single object of antiquarian or historical interest that cannot be found in greater variety and perfection in Pagan than in any other part of Burma, with the exception, perhaps, of Mrohaung in Arakan. The pagodas, temples, caves, and monasteries are in various styles of architecture, reflecting their prototypes in India. Among the notable pagodas and temples the Shwezigôn exhibits the blending of Buddhism with the pre-historic forms of serpent and spirit worship, and the Ananda contains stone sculptures of exquisite workmanship, which are probably the handiwork of Jain sculptors from India. Frescoes and terra-cotta tiles are found in great profusion, and the numerous inscriptions contain an authentic history of the Burmese race living under the humanising influence of Buddhism.
- (iv) The revision of the lists of buildings for conservation, division by division, with the exception of Arakan.
- (v) An architectural survey of the palace and other buildings at Mandalay. Wooden structures do not last long; and a generation or two hence Burmese civil and religious architecture will probably be a forgotten art, and the majority of the buildings themselves will have passed out of existence.
- (vi) A detailed archæological survey of Pagan. It is rather unfortunate that Dr. Forchhammer's life was not spared to complete this work, for which no one was better qualified than he. He had surveyed and described only the Kyaukku temple. The work requires a prolonged and laborious research.

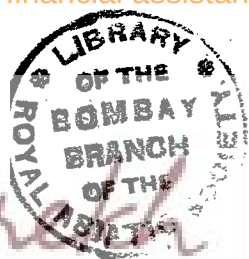
Items (v) and (vi) cannot be carried out satisfactorily without the assistance of an architectural staff, for the creation of which an application has been made to the Government of India. Hitherto the annual expenditure on archæology has been confined within the budget limit of Rs. 10,800, which will have to be considerably enhanced if it is desired that archæological work should be carried on efficiently, expeditiously, and satisfactorily.

G. B. C. P. O.—No. 197, Rev. Secy., 23-8-1902—535.

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